

September 2015

## IN THIS EDITION



Firemen's Day set for Oct. 3. See page 3.



Deadline nearing for memorial bricks. See page 4.

## TOWN HALL CALENDAR

Sept. 8: Town Council regular meeting (7 p.m.)

Sept. 22 Town Council regular meeting (7 p.m.)

Oct. 1: Town Council work session (6 p.m.)

Meetings are in the Council Chambers in building B at Town Hall, 900 7th Ave. Town Council regular meetings are recorded and broadcast (not live) on GTV 11 (Time Warner 11, AT&T U-verse 99).



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# GARNER UPDATE

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(From left) Garner Public Works Streets Division Supervisor Earman Adams, Public Works Services Supervisor Tyson Langdon, Town Manager Hardin Watkins, Public Works Assistant Director Forrest Jones and Public Works Director Paul Cox received the Public Works Department's formal accreditation last month.

## Public Works Formally Receives Accreditation

Garner's Public Works Department officially received its accreditation from the American Public Works Association at a ceremony in Phoenix on Aug. 31. The department is the first in the state to receive public works accreditation and only the 95th in North America to earn the honor.

The department was commended for 12 model practices—nine involving grounds work and one each for facilities inventories, strategic plan and customer service relating to the Town's [garner info](#) app.

Two of the Town's three biggest operational departments—Public Works and Police—have earned national accreditation. The third

largest department—Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources—wrapped up the accreditation process this summer and is awaiting the final word from accreditors later this month. The department's staff is optimistic that they also will earn national accreditation.

Garner's Public Works Department's mission is "committed to providing superior support within our community through professional and customer-focused services." The department comprises several divisions, including Administration, Streets Unit, Public Grounds Unit, Facility Unit and the Fleet Management Unit.



Did you know that you can read all Town news releases at [garnernc.gov](http://garnernc.gov)?



## A Message from the Mayor



Watch the mayor's award-winning "Great People in Garner" on demand at [youtube.com/townofgarner](https://youtube.com/townofgarner).

A lot goes on behind the scenes to make Garner an even greater place to be.

Right now, for example, Town staff are planning a temporary move to new locations so that a new Town Hall can be built at 900 7th Ave. (see details below). A great deal of preparation is going into ensuring continuity of services to citizens



and the business and development community during the Town Hall

construction process.

Also, as you can read about on the back page of this newsletter, the Economic Development team has been working incredibly hard to get the Garner Industrial Site at Greenfield Park South into the Duke Site Readiness Program. That achievement makes the property even better positioned to become a future site for a large industrial development project that will expand Garner's tax base and bring good-paying jobs to our town.

Along with all that hard work going on behind the scenes, there's

also a lot going on that the public can readily see—and enjoy! I'm thinking in particular of Carnaval Latino, which happens this year on Sunday, Sept. 13, and, of course, the ever-popular Firemen's Day, which this year falls on Saturday, Oct. 3. Those are the type of events that make us a great place to be too.

I hope you can come to those festivities. Also, try to make time to attend the 9/11 service at First Baptist (details on the next page).

*Ronnie S. Williams*

Ronnie S. Williams

### TOWN OF GARNER BOND PROGRAM

## Staff Preparing for Town Hall Move

The Town of Garner is building a new Town Hall on the existing municipal campus at 900 7th Ave., so Town staff have to clear out before construction starts in early 2016. Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources administrative staff have already moved to offices at Garner Senior Center (209 E. Garner Road). Here are the remaining relocations:

- By **late October**, the **Police and IT Departments** will likely have moved permanently into the new police station at 912 7th Ave. (next to Southeast Regional Library).
- In **early November**, the **Planning and Inspections Departments** move to the Police Annex building at 400 Aversboro Road.
- By **mid-December**, the **Mayor's, Town Manager's and Town Clerk's Offices**, as well as **Economic Development, Engineering, Finance, Human Resources and Neighborhood Improvement**, will move to an office building at 914 7th Ave. *The Finance Department will take utility and tax bill payments at this location.*
- **Town Council, Planning Commission and**



Many Town Hall staff will relocate temporarily to an office building owned by the Town at 914 7th Ave. The move will enable a new Town Hall to be built at 900 7th Ave.

**Board of Adjustment meetings** will temporarily move to the meeting room in the new police station at 912 7th Ave. starting in **early January**.

The new Town Hall should be completed by the first part of 2017. For more information and updates, please visit [garnerbonds.com](http://garnerbonds.com).





## CARNAVAL LATINO

### Festival Celebrates Diversity

The Town of Garner will have its third annual Carnaval Latino, a festival celebrating Wake County's Latin American community, on Sunday, Sept. 13 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on the back lawn of Garner Performing Arts Center (125 Avery St.).

This free, family-friendly celebration will include performances by Mexican pop band Tercer Divisa, Latin jazz group Jazziano and Brazilian drumming and dance group Batuque de Terriero. Food trucks D'Burritos, Pupusas y Tacos Marina and Kocina Food Truck will offer Latin American cuisine all afternoon, while children will be able to enjoy crafts, face painting and



Garner's third annual Carnaval Latino, held on the back lawn of Garner Performing Arts Center, promises great food and great live music.

Loteria games hosted by Garner Magnet High School.

Vendors will display and sell art, jewelry and handmade goods. The event will conclude with guests being given a chance to take a swing at our piñata.

For additional information, please visit [garnernc.gov/carnavallatino](http://garnernc.gov/carnavallatino).

### Garner's Annual Firemen's Day Planned for Oct. 3

Garner's ever-popular Firemen's Day will be held in downtown Garner on Saturday, Oct. 3 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. The event is centered at the fire station at the corner of Benson Road and Main Street.

The event features a parade (2 p.m.), live music (starting at 3:30

p.m.) and a variety of food (including barbecue!) and other vendors.

There will also be a raffle. Visit any Garner Volunteer Fire-Rescue station to purchase a \$5 ticket.

For a great video overview of the event, please visit [this link](http://this link).

### Garner to Have Annual 9/11 Service

Garner will have its annual 9/11 service Friday, Sept. 11 at First Baptist Church (601 St. Mary's St.). The event includes free breakfast at 7 a.m. The program begins at 7:30.

Keynote speaker is Bill Hart. The program will be emceed by 2015 Miss Garner Rachel Chavez. The event will also feature inspirational music.

### Big Sweep and Litter Sweep to Be Held Sept. 26

The Town of Garner is celebrating National Public Lands Day by holding its fall Big Sweep/Litter Sweep on Saturday, Sept. 26. This annual project relies on volunteers from in and around the Garner area to help pick up trash along Garner roadways and in Town parks.

Participants will receive breakfast and equipment (gloves, bags, etc.) at 9 a.m. at White Deer Park Nature Center (2400 Aversboro Road). Pre-registration is encouraged but not required. Registration can be completed online at [this link](http://this link) or by calling White Deer Park Nature Center at (919) 661-6982.

On-site registration begins at 8:30 a.m. in the Nature Center on the day of the event. Volunteers should wear closed-toe shoes and bring sun protection.

For more information, contact White Deer Park Nature Center at (919) 661-6982.



You can follow Garner PRCR on Twitter (@GarnerPRCR).

### Med Drop Event at Town Hall on Sept. 26

The Garner Police Department is hosting a medication take-back event on Saturday, Sept. 26, from 9 a.m. to noon at Town Hall, 900 7th Ave. (building B in the Council Chambers). The service is free, anonymous, and no questions will be asked.

Please do not bring any liquids or syringes to the event, and leave medications in their original containers if possible.

For more information, call Sgt. Chris Adams at (919) 772-8810.





# Town Reports Possible Gator Sightings

As you may have heard by now, there have been several unconfirmed alligator sightings in and around Lake Benson. These reports were made between May and July. No sightings have been reported in August or September.

The Town urges citizens to be mindful as they are boating, fishing and enjoying their time on the lake and at Town parks.

If you think you have spotted an alligator, please call the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission at (919) 707-0040 or the White Deer Park front desk at (919) 661-6982.

Town officials also want to take this opportunity to remind citizens to not feed or approach wildlife.



Town officials are asking the public to be mindful when on or around Lake Benson and to never approach or feed wildlife.



Follow the Town on Twitter for the most current and accurate information about your hometown (@TownofGarner).

# Site Readiness Program Gives Garner Site a Boost

The Duke Site Readiness Program ended in Garner on July 30 with a presentation by site consultant firm McCallum and Sweeney about why prepared communities win economic development projects. The Town of Garner and the 152-acre Garner Industrial Site at Greenfield Park South were inducted into the program in April.

The program, sponsored by Duke Energy, is designed to help communities collect extensive information on properties to position them to be ready for development.

The four-month-long program in Garner consisted of two site visits, extensive research on the Garner Industrial Site property, a presentation to site consultants and a final report on the property from site-location consultants rating the site and the performance of the economic development office.

“This has been a great process for the Economic Development Department,” Economic Development Director Joe Stallings said. “As we continue to search for ways to position Garner as a standout community ready for development, our ability to have client-ready sites is imperative and will separate Garner from the rest of our competition. Through this program, we have been able to add one more property that we can offer those companies looking to locate or expand in our community.”

As a part of the program, the Town will receive a \$10,000 grant to assist with further studies and improvements needed at the site to make it more client ready.

For more information on economic development in Garner, contact Joe Stallings at (919) 773-4431 or at [jstallings@garnernc.gov](mailto:jstallings@garnernc.gov).



# Last Chance to Order Bricks for Walkway of Honor

The Town of Garner will take orders for engraved bricks to be placed in the Garner Veterans Memorial Walkway of Honor through Sept. 10. Orders are expected to be sent for engraving shortly thereafter with installation planned for late October.

A brick can be ordered for any veteran regardless of location, age or type of service. Order forms are available at Garner Senior Center, White Deer Park Nature Center (919.661.6982) and at [garnerveteransmemorial.org](mailto:garnerveteransmemorial.org).